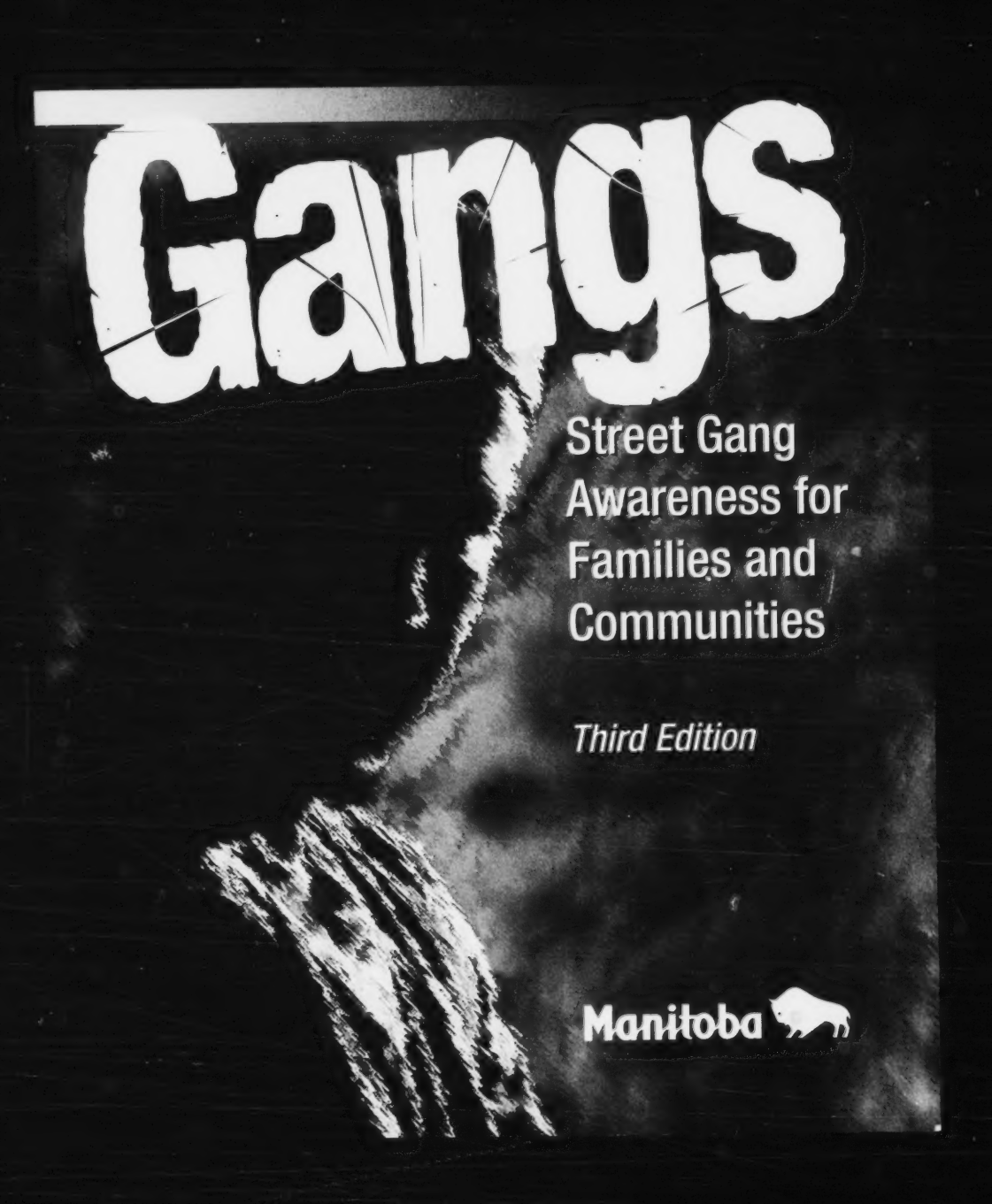
Gangs
Street Gang Awareness for Families and Communities
Third Edition
Manitoba

Project Gang-Proof

Street Gang Awareness for Families and Communities

Project Gang-Proof is the province's written resource on gangs. It includes:

- this handbook (for families and communities)
- website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/gangproof/index.html
- resource line: 1-800-691-4264 945-4264 (Winnipeg)
- *Warning Signs and Prevention Tips for Parents and Families*
- *Getting out of Street Gangs (fact sheet for youth)*

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Part A - Introduction

1. Let's Act Now

Be gang-smart

Criminal gangs can form in all types of neighbourhoods –- urban and rural cities and communities. Gang members come from all cultures and socio-economic backgrounds. They can intimidate children, families and communities… but only if we let them.

Everyone who plays a role in caring for children should be knowledgeable about gang culture, and should recognize the warning signs that a child may be involved in a gang. The makeup of families has changed over the years. Today, children may live with parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts, guardians or other caretakers. For the purposes of this document, the word 'parent' will be used to represent the wide range of caregivers who look after children today.

Use this book

This handbook is a resource for families and communities who want to stop young people from joining or staying in street gangs. It is designed to provide adults with the information and resources to prevent youth (male and female) from joining gangs. It includes an overview of street gangs in Manitoba, as well as prevention and intervention tips for parents, families and community agencies.

To help you find the resources you need, a list of references is provided at the back of this handbook. For more information on identifying appropriate resources, call the Project Gang-Proof Resource Line at 1-800-691-4264, 945-4264 (Winnipeg). THESE ARE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBERS.

The information in this handbook is based on solid research and the advice of:

- Manitoba Justice
- law enforcement agencies
- community members, agencies and youth
- teachers
- child and family services
- social workers and counsellors

By becoming more informed about gang issues, we can all work together to prevent gangs from forming in our communities.

Manitoba government objectives

The key objectives of the Manitoba government are to:

1. counter gangs and prosecute organized crime
2. prevent, intervene and suppress gang activity
3. promote and advocate for all legal and reasonable efforts to disrupt this criminal activity

The Manitoba government believes:

- Preventing youth from joining gangs is key to reducing gang activity.
- Neighbourhoods have the right to be safe from gangs.
- Communities must be supported at the grass-roots level to implement solutions that prevent gang activity in their neighbourhoods.
- Opportunities for education, employment and safe housing provide a way out of gang life.
- Gang life must not be glorified in the media, in the music and entertainment business or in any other public way.

Part B – Awareness

1. About Gangs

Gangs change over time. This makes it difficult to define a gang. As well, some gangs are more organized than others. An outlaw motorcycle gang (OMG) is an example of a highly organized gang less likely to change over time, while street gangs range from very organized to loosely organized.

Definitions

It's important to have a working definition of what is meant by a "gang." Different gang types and structures require different prevention and intervention approaches.

For the purposes of this document, the Manitoba government supports the following gang definitions:

- **Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs (OMG)**
  OMG is a term used to describe motorcycle clubs where the members consider themselves to be "outlaws."[1] They are involved in many criminal activities such as murder, drug trafficking, sexual exploitation, intimidation, fraud and theft.

- **Puppet Clubs**
  A puppet club supports outlaw motorcycle gangs. This club can be a street gang or a lower-level OMG. Puppet clubs commit violent acts to protect the OMG from law enforcement. For example, puppet clubs distribute and sell drugs, make drug debt collections and perform other tasks to support the OMG.

[1] The RCMP Gazette. 1998

- **Street Gangs**
  Street gangs are a group of adults and/or youth involved in minor to serious criminal activity.[2] Street gangs come in all sizes, from just a few to many hundred. Some are highly organized with leaders and members. Other gangs form for a period of time with open membership, and no formal rules or distinct leader. They may disband, split or take over other gangs. Some street gangs are made up of people from similar ethnic or cultural backgrounds.

This handbook will talk about street gangs. The goal is to prevent youth from becoming involved in gangs and stop the flow of street gang activity that supports criminal organizations.

When a gang isn't a "gang"

Not all youth who hang out together in a group are a "gang." Some kids get together at shopping malls or schools, and may call themselves a gang, but they are not involved in criminal activity. Other kids may hang out together because of an interest in a certain sub-culture (ex: 'Goths').

"Gangs become your family. Even if your cousin is in another gang, it doesn't matter. You can't acknowledge your real family anymore. You may have to end up fighting your own cousin."

Gang member,
Stony Mountain Institution 2006

While parents/guardians and community members must pay attention to potential gang activity, it's important not to overreact and label all youth who hang out together as gangs.

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[2] Howell, James C. and Egley, A. *Gangs in Small Towns and Rural Counties*. National Youth Gang Centre; Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. June 2005

How Manitoba Justice determines gang membership

Manitoba Justice defines a gang member as someone who:

1. has been identified by a reliable source(s) as a gang member
2. associates with known gang members
3. admits to being a member of a gang
4. is involved in gang-motivated crime
5. has been identified as a gang member by a judge in court rulings
6. displays common gang symbols

Please note: *To be listed as a gang member by Manitoba Justice, an individual must meet number 4 (is involved in gang-motivated crime), and any other two of the above criteria. Police across Canada use similar processes to identify gang members.*

Why determining gang membership is necessary

Investigating gang cases and bringing gang members to trial is a very complex process. Having a formal definition of who is, or is not, a gang member allows law enforcement to collect evidence for use in criminal or civil proceedings. A formal definition of gang membership is also required for prosecuting gang cases and for managing gang members in jail. The criteria also protects an individual from being falsely accused of being a gang member.

Legal definition of a criminal organization

The term, *criminal organization*, has a specific legal meaning defined by the *Criminal Code of Canada* under section 467.1(1), as indicated on the next page.

A criminal organization is defined as a group, however organized, that:

(a) is composed of three or more persons in or outside Canada, and

(b) has, as one of its main purposes or main activities, the facilitation or commission of one or more serious offences that, if committed, would likely result in the direct or indirect receipt of a material benefit, including financial benefit, by the group or by any of the persons who constitute the group.

It does not include a group of persons who form randomly to commit a single crime and then disband.

In simpler terms, a criminal organization is any group of at least three people, whose main purpose is to help or commit one or more serious crimes, with the goal of making money.

Criminal organizations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and mobile. They may have international crime connections and operate in other countries. Some outlaw motorcycle gangs, for example, have chapters in other countries.

The activities of criminal organizations include the illegal drug trade (ex: grow-ops), sexual exploitation of people, illegal migration, trafficking of human beings, money laundering, economic crimes, cross-border smuggling of counterfeit goods and even environmental crimes such as the dumping of toxic wastes.[3]

The Manitoba government has implemented a series of initiatives to address gang activity. These initiatives reflect a comprehensive and co-ordinated effort among law enforcement, prosecutions, courts, corrections and community.

[3] RCMP 2006

How gangs are organized

Some gangs have clear leaders and strict rules. Some copy a business model, with a president, vice-president and board members. Membership is often based on absolute loyalty. Youth may rise to leadership over time.

- **Gang members**
  Members have full membership in the gang and owe absolute loyalty to it. These members have generally completed some form of initiation (ex: being beat into the gang or committing a serious crime such as assault or armed robbery). They are active in the gang and show they are committed to the gang lifestyle.

- **Associate/Affiliate members**
  Some gangs allow people who are not fully initiated or involved with the gang, be affiliate members. The gang offers protection and support to affiliate members in exchange for specific services.

- **Potential or "wannabe" members**
  These are usually the youngest people associated with a gang – youth who are likely recruits for the gang or actively seeking gang membership. They may be as young as nine or 10. They hang around with gang members and believe gang life is normal and worthwhile. They may have problems and opinions in common with gang members.

- **Those who fantasize about gang activity**
  Some people come to admire a gang member or the gang lifestyle and fantasize about gang membership. This can happen even if they don't know a gang or gang members. Films, television, newspapers and other media can stimulate such fantasies.

You have to start with the family.
If you have to go home and mom and dad
are drinking, they teach you nothing.
Your friends teach you.
Your friends are your family.

Gang member,
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006

Street Gangs
- High to loosely organized
- has members
- involved in acts of violence

Youth involved in Gangs
- Loosely structured
- Members change
- Gangs form and reform

Children & youth at-risk of gang involvement

FAMILIES/SOCIETY

OJJDP 2006, Manitoba Justice 2006

2. Gang Life

The three 'Rs' of gang life are:

- reputation
- respect
- retaliation

Gang members work at building reputations so their peers will regard them highly. They demand the respect they feel they deserve as gang members. If they don't get that respect, they retaliate, often with violent acts.

Gang members actively promote their gangs and depend on the gang subculture to provide their major wants and needs. Gang members manipulate and bully lesser gang members and others in the community.

Initiation

Most gangs require a new member to go through some form of initiation. Typically, it is a "beat-in" by other gang members. For example, the gang decides to physically beat the new member for a specific number of minutes. Some new gang members are required to commit crimes. This can be the same for boys and girls.

Kids join for protection, safety and retaliation.

Gang member,
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

Different levels of gang activity

Gang activity can range from minor criminal activity to serious criminal acts. Youth criminal activity includes extorting lunch money, writing graffiti, vandalism, bullying, intimidation, stealing bicycles, burglaries, shoplifting, drug use, drug dealing and truancy. However, any of this behaviour can lead to more serious criminal activity. Youth can also face criminal charges.

Criminal activities common to street gangs include more serious crimes, such as homicide, assault, robbery, home invasion, manslaughter, drug dealing, drive-by shooting, arson, rape, sexual exploitation of women and children, intimidation of victims and witnesses, and vehicle theft.

What gangs do

When a gang gets together, the potential for violent crime is substantial. The violence is indiscriminate, unpredictable and can claim innocent victims. Street gangs have been responsible for drive-by shootings and stabbings. Gang members also use violence to intimidate other gang members, innocent community residents, police and justice officials.

Females and gangs

Manitoba Justice staff has spoken with girls who say they were in gangs. Community agencies and law enforcement report they are aware of females who are part of male gangs. To date, there has been a lack of research on female gang members. Most gang research has focused on males.

Girls involved in gangs may have the following characteristics. They may:

- come from poverty
- be young, single, unemployed and/or undereducated
- have suffered personal abuse – sexual or physical
- live in inner-city neighbourhoods and areas of high crime
- be, or may have been, involved in the child welfare system
- have been involved in criminal acts

It's been reported that girls must also go through an initiation to get into a gang, such as endure a beating, commit a crime, or, in some cases, perform sexual acts.

Females' motivations for joining gangs are the same as those for males. In tougher areas of a city or town, vulnerable youth may feel forced to join gangs to survive. This may seem like their only option.

Joining a gang may also seem like a better alternative to their current living situation, particularly if they are being physically or sexually abused at home. The thinking is that a gang will protect them from the abuse. In reality, females usually become the property of the male gang, and it is well-known in the gang which male member the female belongs to.

As with most organized crime groups, female gang members are not leaders in male gangs. Females rank themselves and are often invisible to the males – until they're needed for something. Females participate in most of the same activities as male gang members. However, while they take many of the same risks, they don't receive the same status as their male counterparts. Furthermore, female gang members often suffer abuse, such as rape and assault, from male gang members. The male members may also sexually exploit the female members by forcing them into the sex trade.

The link between gangs and drugs

The main source of money for organized crime groups and gangs is drug dealing – however, they operate far beyond the local drug dealers. Gangs traffic and use all types of drugs. Some of the most common are crack cocaine, ecstasy, marijuana and crystal meth. A range of offences, including theft, sexual exploitation, break-and-enter and other violent crimes, are linked to the trade and use of illicit drugs. As a result, drug trafficking has profoundly negative effects on neighbourhoods.

Drug activity

Here are some examples of how drugs are used in street gangs.

- **Dial-a-Dope**
  This is when gangs use their cell phones to receive orders and set up the delivery of drugs to their customers. Police advise that rented or leased cars are frequently used by the drug sellers when conducting these types of drug transactions.

- **Lookouts**
  Some gangs use children as lookouts for gang members dealing drugs in a neighbourhood. If the children see suspicious cars or police, they signal the gang members. Police and community members have reported seeing children on their bikes at a street corner acting as lookouts.

> ***Kids join to make money. Screw welfare. I'm going to sell drugs to make money. Drugs is fast money.***
>
> **Gang member, Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.**

- **Luring**
  Gangs will often lure children and youth into gang life by offering them free drugs. Once they are addicted, gangs stop supplying their drugs for free. The children and youth are then forced to join the gangs as payment for more drugs, or they are forced to work the street, providing paid sex, to earn money to support their drug habit.

- **Lacing**
  Community members and police have also reported that gang members have been lacing marijuana joints with crystal meth. Crystal meth is an incredibly dangerous and addictive drug. Because it's so addictive, gang members can more easily hook children and youth on crystal meth. As a result, the users become dependent on the gang members for more of the drug.

The general public should be aware that by using illegal drugs, even just as casual users, they are supporting gang activity.

The Manitoba government has introduced a number of measures to deal with drugs, drug houses and gangs in Manitoba neighbourhoods. The province has mounted public awareness campaigns about the dangers of crystal meth, and is working to address the problem of neighbourhood drug houses used by gangs.

More information about drugs, and how to talk to children and youth about the dangers of drug use, is available on page 63.

Where does the money earned from selling and buying drugs go?[4]

The link between drugs and sex

Before beginning to examine the roles drugs and sex play in gang life, it is important to recognize the difference between adults working in the sex trade and child sexual exploitation. The following definitions are provided by the Manitoba government.

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[4] Winnipeg Police Service 2006

Child sexual exploitation *– the act of coercing, luring or engaging a child, under the age of 18, into a sexual act, and involvement in the sex trade or pornography, with or without the child's consent, in exchange for money, drugs, shelter, food, protection or other necessities* [5]

Sex trade worker *– an adult (over the age of 18), who trades sex for money or goods* [6]

Please note: *Unlike an adult, a child or youth who trades sex for money or goods is being sexually exploited.*

Gangs and the sex trade

The sex trade and Manitoba's illegal drug industry go hand in hand. The sex trade is about supply and demand. The supply includes exploited children, women and transgender individuals. The demand comes from people willing to pay these individuals for sexual services. It is this ongoing demand that sustains the sex trade, and supports both the illegal drug trade and organized crime.

Gangs and child sexual exploitation

Since gangs use the trafficking and sale of drugs as their main source of income, sexual exploitation plays a key role in the cycle of criminal activity. Gang members encourage child sexual exploitation by offering free drugs to young people and then cutting them off once they become addicted. These kids become dependent on gang members to support their growing habits and are forced to work the streets to earn money for drugs.

Gang members may pressure their girlfriends, or other young women, to exchange sex for drugs, or to work in the sex trade – on the streets or indoors (ex: massage parlour) – for money. The money is then handed over to the gang.

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[5] Neighbourhood Solutions: Working Together to Address Sexual Exploitation on our Streets. March 2006

[6] Ibid

Often, these children being sexually exploited by gang members are either forced or coerced by people they consider friends. Many have not had their basic needs – survival, security, belonging – met by family or friends. Desperate to get these needs met through the gang, children and youth are easily misled into believing gang members really care.

However, after repeated abuse and victimization, they learn the reality of gang life is far different than what they'd imagined.

Provincial government resources

In December 2002, the Manitoba government announced a strategy to prevent the sexual exploitation of children and youth. The strategy was developed through partnerships between the government and the community. It focuses on the needs of children and includes working with agencies and organizations to develop plans that work.

Children and youth, who are sexually exploited through the sex trade, are victims of child abuse. For more information and resources on this topic, please contact the provincial co-ordinator of Services for Sexually Exploited Children/Youth in Winnipeg at 945-5055 or toll free 1-800-282-8069 ext. 5055.

The Manitoba government recently released *Neighbourhood Solutions: Working together to Address Sexual Exploitation on Our Streets*, a publication that provides an overview of the sex trade, including its impact on the victims of sexual exploitation and the communities where it occurs.

To view the publication, visit:
www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/index.html
or contact:
Manitoba Justice, Community Justice Branch
Winnipeg: 945-0493
Toll free: 1-800-282-8069 ext. 0493

3. Why Kids Join Gangs

We all want to belong to something. It is a basic human need, and for youth, this need to belong or fit in can be overwhelming. If they don't feel a sense of belonging at home or school, they may turn to gangs to provide that for them. Peer pressure, a lack of positive alternatives in the community, and/or the desire for protection or prestige can also influence a young person's decision to join a gang.

Families and children living in poverty, with poor housing and high unemployment are often vulnerable to gang recruitment and potential criminal actvities. Some Aboriginal peoples facing these conditions, in addition to racism and the social and cultural long-term impact of residential schools on Aboriginal families, are even more at risk. New Canadians dealing with these conditions, as well as the impact of adjusting to a new country may also be susceptible to gang involvement.

Children and youth at risk

Although anyone can join a gang, experts say the people most likely to join:

- lack basic survival needs and feelings of safety and belonging
- come from homes where alcohol or drug abuse is present
- have other family members or friends involved with gangs
- are male (although some gangs have female associates/ members)
- are between 13 and 23 years of age
- do poorly in school
- have a need to exercise power and control over others
- have a history of violent and/or criminal acts
- come from poverty

- have low self-esteem
- are victims of abuse or neglect
- have negative role models
- are unemployed with few work skills
- have angry, pro-crime attitudes

Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD)
Vulnerable to the lure of gangs

What is FASD?

FASD includes a range of disorders that may affect babies whose mothers drink alcohol while pregnant. Because it passes through the mother to the baby, the alcohol also affects the baby. FASD babies usually show birth defects that include physical, mental and behavioural challenges.

How does FASD affect children?

Because FASD can cause mental as well as physical challenges, children diagnosed with FASD may have difficulty:

- controlling how they act and get along with others
- paying attention and learning at school
- with depression and/or drug and alcohol addictions
- holding jobs
- knowing right from wrong, which can result in trouble with the law

As a result of their challenges, children with FASD can be vulnerable to the common lures of gangs. Often, their ability to reason and understand that actions have consequences is under-developed. As a result, these children may be more easily manipulated into behaving badly (ex: vandalism, graffiti).

The Manitoba government has implemented a number of FASD prevention and intervention programs. To learn more about them, contact:

FASD Community Program Co-ordinator
219-114 Garry Street
Winnipeg MB R3C 4V6
Phone: 945-2266 (in Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-888-848-0140
E-mail: healthychild@gov.mb.ca
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/fas

There is also a toll free line that provides information about alcohol-related disabilities to anyone, anywhere in Manitoba. Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Information Manitoba at 1-866-877-0050.

(This service is a joint initiative between Health Canada and Healthy Child Manitoba.)

Common reasons kids join gangs

Kids join gangs for many different reasons. Some gang members lure children and youth into joining by promising them things that are hard to refuse. Following are some of the more common reasons kids join gangs:

- **Stand-in family** – Youth are seeking a sense of belonging they don't get at home or at school.

- **Recognition** – Some young people, perhaps unemployed or doing poorly at school, join gangs to feel important. Since they don't see themselves as winners when it comes to grades, athletics or leadership, they join groups where they can succeed by different standards. Gangs provide that for them.

- **Tradition and hero imitation** – Kids may join because people they admire were, or are, gang members.

- **Protection** – Some youth join gangs to feel safe. Fellow gang members help protect them from outsiders and get revenge against others. Gang members will often watch to see which kid is being bullied by other children – then offer to protect the child.

- **Lack of choices** – A lack of opportunities, poor life choices and heavy peer pressure can drive young people to join gangs.

Attention. I would come home in a cop car, skip school - nothing. I got no attention from my mom when I got home. I got attention from my friends. If I got it at home I wouldn't be running out in the streets.

Gang member. Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

- **Threats** – Children and youth may feel real or imagined pressure to join a gang. Some are actually threatened by gang members if they refuse to join.

- **Generational** – Young people may join because their family members belong to a gang. Some youth have reported that their parents, uncles and cousins are all gang members. Because it's seen as a way of life, kids often feel they don't have a choice. There have even been reports of gang-involved individuals dressing their infant children to look like gang members (ex: putting bandanas on babies).

Manitoba Justice found that a significant number of the youth gang members in custody had family members who were also involved in gangs.

(Manitoba Justice: Youth Corrections. 2006)

- **Money** – The desire or need for money can be hard for a young person to turn down. The money from criminal activity and illegal drugs, in particular, can be highly attractive.

- **Drugs** – Gang members offer free drugs to children and youth as a way of luring them into the gang.

- **Gifts** – Expensive items (ex: cell phones), brand-name clothing or runners, and other gifts are often used to entice kids to join a gang.

Alcohol. That's how I grew up. I was running around in the middle of the night. When I came home my mom was passed out. I would get rid of the alcohol. That would have helped me.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

4. Impact on Communities

Gangs today are mobile - they move around. No neighbourhood is safe from gangs. A gang may hang out in a certain area or neighbourhood and claim it as their own (ex: shopping mall, corner store, park, school). The area is sometimes referred to as the gang's 'turf' or 'hood.' However, gangs in Manitoba are not as "turf-oriented" as we might think. They are usually more concerned about controlling the drug trade in a particular area of the city or community.[7]

Gangs bring fear and violence to our communities. Property may be vandalized and marked with graffiti. This makes some residents afraid to leave their homes. Vandalism, stealing and frightening customers can ruin businesses or force them to move away, taking jobs and money out of the community.

Gangs can also increase the criminal activity in a community. Gang members are known to commit more violent crimes more often than criminals who are not in gangs. As well, gang members commit more serious crimes over longer criminal careers.

Signs of gangs in your community

Gangs often use signs, signals and actions to show they are active in an area. These may change quickly, but there are some standard signs.

Gang Graffiti

Not all graffiti is gang graffiti. Gang graffiti is used to glorify the gang and to send messages to other gangs. Graffiti on public or private property is often one of the first signs that gangs are active in a neighbourhood.

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[7] Winnipeg Police Service 2006

Graffiti defaces personal or public property with lettering, symbols, nicknames and drawings – usually done in spray paint. Names, symbols and characters are used to identify gangs and gang members, and graffiti helps mark their turf in a dispute. Graffiti has been used to announce top-ranking members and advertise activities of the gang or its members.

Gang graffiti is also used to make threats and challenge other gangs. Distorting a rival gang's graffiti is considered an insult. Therefore, violence can result when one gang challenges another with graffiti.

How to tell if graffiti is gang-related

Gang graffiti:

- is often in block letters
- is often in a gang colour
- may contain a list of nicknames
- may be crossed out by rival gangs
- may be found in areas where gang activity is common

Tagging

The word 'tag' is short for turf art graffiti. A 'tagger' is a person who thinks graffiti is a form of art, or who takes a unique nickname and then puts it on different objects. Sometimes taggers compete to place their names or slogans in visible locations. Tagger graffiti is usually not associated with gangs, but it is a form of vandalism and contributes to the negative appearance of communities.

Differences between tagging and gang graffiti

Gangs use graffiti to threaten, boast and make turf claims. Gang graffiti is more concerned with letters and numbers and is rarely artistic. It is sometimes used as evidence or information by the police. Taggers, on the other hand, often produce artistic graffiti that features pictures and symbols and boasts about the tagger.

What to do if you spot graffiti in your neighbourhood

If you are a home or business owner, you should report gang graffiti to police before you remove it. Police collect pictures of the gang graffiti to track gang activity in communities. In most cases, removal is safe, as long as it is all removed at once so no particular gang feels singled out.

If you see graffiti in progress, contact your local law enforcement office. In Winnipeg, contact the Winnipeg Police Service at 986-6222. For more information on graffiti prevention see: www.winnipeg.ca/police/TakeAction/graffiti_prev.stm

Manitoba Justice also operates Off the Wall, a graffiti-removal program where youth in trouble with the law work in the community to remove the graffiti. For more information, contact:
Off the Wall: 782-0436 (Winnipeg cell phone) Probation

Gang identifiers

Gang members use a variety of means to show they belong to a gang, including boasting, bullying and displaying arrogant attitudes.

Colours – Some gangs display a particular colour(s), mostly on their clothes, to show they belong to a specific gang and to promote membership.

Clothing style – Sometimes they wear certain types of clothing in specific ways (ex: putting hats on sideways, rolling up one pant leg, wearing baggy pants). Many gangs wear a particular style of sportswear and/or accessories, ranging from baseball caps, jackets, pants and shirts to belt buckles, key chains and shoes. Their clothing may display gang logos, names or graffiti. Gangs sometimes get their names and/or logos custom printed on clothing items.

Bandannas or "rags" – Rags are a common sign of gang membership and can be worn in various ways (ex: as head-bands, hanging out of a rear pocket, draped over a jacket, tied around the leg or wrist). The colour of the rag is key to gang identity and may also indicate rank.

Hair styles – The way they wear their hair may indicate membership in a specific gang. For example, they may wear braids, shave parts of their heads or eyebrows, or dye their hair a certain colour.

Tattoos – Tattoos can show gang membership. They may be crude or elaborate, and worn anywhere on the body, including hands, arms or legs. The gang decides who gets a tattoo, as well as the type of tattoo. Full gang members may have tattoos that cover their entire backs. In some gangs, members earn the right

to wear certain tattoos – for example, after they commit violent crimes. If a gang decides that a gang member, or rival gang member, should no longer have a tattoo, they may remove it by burning or cutting it off the person's skin.

Gang weapons – These range from common weapons like guns or knives to pool balls wrapped in a sock, brass knuckles, baseball bats and chemical pepper spray.

Hand signs – Unusual hand signs or other signals can also show gang membership. Sometimes, gang members use them to identify their own gang or challenge other gangs. Hand signs usually involve twisting fingers and hands to form letters/numbers that represent gang symbols or initials. Gang members may also use specific handshakes, or even their entire bodies, to send a message.

Verbal signs, too, can be used by gang members to communicate (ex: buzzwords, phrases that have a specific meaning to the gang).

Mad-dogging and hard looks – Glaring or staring hard at another person are also common gang indicators. Mad-dogging is used to challenge an enemy to a fight.

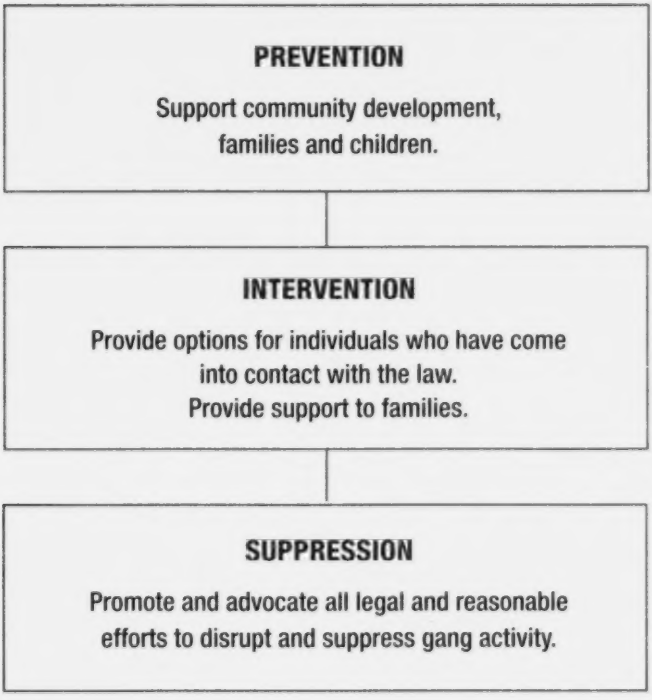
Note: *Gangs who don't want to be identified avoid all these signs, especially when they're dealing drugs. Current fashions can also make it difficult to identify gang members based on how they dress. Some gangs no longer wear their colours, so they aren't as visible to families, schools and law enforcement.*

Part C – Action

The Manitoba Government is committed to addressing gangs through:

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Suppression

When prevention, intervention and suppression activities are co-ordinated, anti-gang initiatives are more likely to be successful.


PREVENTION
Support community development, families and children.
INTERVENTION
Provide options for individuals who have come into contact with the law.
Provide support to families.
SUPPRESSION
Promote and advocate all legal and reasonable efforts to disrupt and suppress gang activity.

1. Prevention

Strategies for parents, caregivers and families

Prevention is the key to controlling gang activity. Anti-gang efforts begin with partnerships among families, children and youth, schools, law enforcement, spiritual leaders, community organizations and businesses. The goal is to steer children in the right direction at an early age. It is important to involve the entire community. Laws can help, but communities must act together to increase the likelihood of success.

The more you get involved with children, their friends and the activities they're involved in, the less chance there is of losing them to a gang. Gangs can be stopped from forming and spreading, but no single person, group or agency can solve a gang problem alone. We must act together against gangs and take responsibility for keeping our communities safe.

While the challenges may seem overwhelming, there are immediate steps you can take to prevent a child or youth from getting involved with gangs.

Gotta start in the home.
Parents gotta look
after their kids.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

Protecting a child from gangs

Be gang-aware

Read this handbook and learn the signs of gang involvement. Go to gang-awareness meetings in schools, community centres, places of worship or homes of other families. Involve the children. Involve the whole community in stopping gangs from forming or spreading.

Start while they're young

If you have young children, start preparing your family to be gang-proof. That means talking about gangs and how they hurt children, families and communities. For some parents, this may mean beginning when your child is five or six years old – for others, the right time may be when your child is eight or nine years old. Every family is different. Parents need to decide at what age their child is ready to hear and understand these things.

If your child starts to show signs of gang involvement, it is particularly important to talk about it. It may be helpful to include family members in the discussions. Remember – your child is vulnerable and needs your help to make good decisions.

You can make a difference

Most parents know the dangers of joining a gang, but don't know how to talk to their kids about it. They may feel their words won't have any impact on the child's behaviour. The truth is, though they may not appear to be listening, children do hear what parents say. And parents can influence how their children behave and the choices they make.

Here are some tips for parents, caregivers and families on preventing children from joining a gang:

(These may seem like simple things, but often they can make the difference between gang involvement and drugs, or growing up in a positive, healthy environment.)

1. Seek help for your child or teen

If your child makes a bad choice and is in trouble, don't hesitate to ask for help. Contact your local community agency, friendship centre, school or government office to see if they offer support programs for parents and families.

Talk to someone you trust about your child's situation – it could be a friend, spiritual advisor, elder or teacher. Ask that person to talk to your child. Developing a positive connection to a trusted person can build your child's self-esteem and help him or her make positive choices.

2. Find parenting supports – get help for yourself

We can all use help as parents. There are resources in many communities that offer parenting classes (ex: community agency, parent-child coalition, friendship centre, family resource centre). Culture-based programs can also be very helpful to some parents and families. Ask your school or community centre if they know where a local parent support class is offered.

Moms and dads have been in residential schools. Now that era is over. I watched my mom drink and get beat up. I watched my uncles and aunties drink. We're part of the residential school era.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

The Manitoba government has launched an internationally recognized, parenting support program called Triple P (Positive Parenting Program). Triple P will strenghten organizations that support parents and families with up-to-date information and advice on parenting strategies.

A Triple P fact sheet for parents is provided in the appendix. For more information, contact:

Healthy Child Manitoba Office
219 - 114 Garry Street
Winnipeg, MB R3C 4V6
Phone: 945-2266 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-888-848-0140
E-mail: healthychild@gov.mb.ca
Website: www. gov.mb.ca/healthychild.index.html

3. Stay connected to your child

Spend time with your child (ex: play games, tell stories, look at books, go for a walk). Get to know your child's friends and their families.

Know where your kids are at all times. Make sure they're not on the streets alone. If they start hanging around with kids who are a bad influence, help them make new friends.

Let your kids know you love them. Tell your child positive things and listen to what they have to say. Children with a strong connection to a parent or family member are less likely to look for support and a sense of belonging from gangs.

Teach your children to be street-smart. Make sure they know how to stay safe when out in the neighbourhood.

The Winnipeg Police Service also has information on street-proofing children. Visit their website at www.winnipeg.ca/police/PDFs/TakeActionSchools/PersonalSafetyChildResource.pdf .

4. Spend time at your child's school

Children typically spend more time at school than at home. Stay connected to the school. Get to know your child's teacher and other staff members. Walk your child to school or make sure they walk with a friend. Do homework together. If your child is having trouble at school, talk to your child, teachers and school counsellor. If the problem continues, speak to the principal.

5. Encourage positive activities

Help your child stay active and healthy by getting involved in activities after school and on weekends. There are many resources throughout Manitoba that offer free recreation programs. Attending programs will help them gain positive experiences, new skills and healthy friendships.

Recreation would help if it was for the family too. Then it would be better. Like if my dad came to watch me play hockey instead of drinking.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

Check with community centres, schools, Friendship Centres, Boys and Girls Clubs, drop-in centres, youth groups or Band offices, to find out what kinds of sports or cultural activities are offered in your area.

The province also has many Lighthouses throughout Manitoba. Lighthouses is a youth program that offers free recreational opportunities and a positive alternative to gangs or other criminal activities.

For a list of Lighthouses sites, please call:

Winnipeg: 945-1549 or 945-0493
Manitoba: Toll free 1-800-282-8069 ext. 1549 or 0493
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/lighthouses/index.html

Some research shows that allowing children to play violent video games or watch violent TV shows encourages negative behaviour. If the child is already dealing with a difficult home life, and a lack of positive role models, being exposed to ongoing violence is generally not a good idea. You may want to monitor your children's activities to ensure the video games they play and the TV shows they watch are appropriate for their age.

6. Talk to your child about gangs

Explain to your child how dangerous gangs are. Let him or her know gangs can not only hurt them – they can also hurt other family members. Advise your child not to hang out with gang members, go to parties organized by gangs, use hand signals or wear gang clothing. People involved in gangs are often in trouble with the law and can end up in jail. Make sure children know about the consequences of participation in criminal activities.

7. Be a positive role model and mentor

Set a positive example for your child. Positive role models can have a major impact on what children think and how they behave. Is there a person in your neighbourhood that your child trusts and looks up to who could be a mentor? Developing a positive connection to a trusted person can build your child's self-esteem and help them make positive choices.

PARENTS IN CRISIS – It is not always easy for parents to be positive role models for their children – particularly when the parents are struggling with their own problems and challenges. If you think you may not be the positive role model your child needs, get help. Talk to a trusted friend, spiritual advisor or elder. Check out services and resources in your community. Call a crisis line. By getting help for yourself, you will also be helping your child and your family.

See the following bullet (#8) for contacts and resources that deal with alcohol or substance abuse. There is also a list of addiction and substance abuse services on p. 69

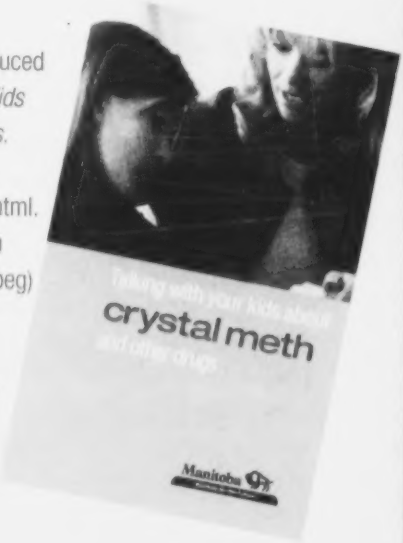
8. Talk to your child about drug abuse

Talk with your child about the dangers of drugs. Teach them that gang members use drugs to try and lure children into their gangs. If someone is pressuring them to try drugs, teach your child to say no. Kids whose parents talk to them about drugs are less likely to begin using them.

If you know your child is taking drugs, seek help. Talk to your child and let them know you are concerned. Talk to professionals.

Community resources

The Manitoba government has produced a handbook called *Talking to your Kids about Crystal Meth and Other Drugs.* To view the handbook, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/crystalmeth/index.html. To receive a copy, call Mental Health Resource Centre, 953-2355 (Winnipeg) 1-866-997-9918 (Manitoba)



Manitoba also has various addiction and substance abuse services, including Alcoholics Anonymous, Al-Anon and Alateen, as well as community services like the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba and the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program (NADAP).

For assistance, or for more information on drug/alcohol abuse, call:

Addictions Foundations of Manitoba:
Library: 944-6233 (Winnipeg) or 1-866-638-2568
General Inquiries: 944-6200 (Winnipeg) or 1-866-638-2561
1-866-767-3838 (Brandon)
1-866-291-7774 (Thompson)

The Salvation Army
946-9400 (Winnipeg)

Behavioural Health Foundation
269-3430 (St. Norbert)

Native Addictions Council of Manitoba
586-8395 (Winnipeg)

Or contact your local NADAP (Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention) counsellor.

For a complete list of addiction programs in the province, visit the Healthy Living website at: www.gov.mb.ca/health/mh/links.html#addictions.

Please Note: *For phone numbers to programs not listed above and not on the Healthy Living website, look in the Yellow Pages under Alcoholism Information and Treatment Centres.*

9. Talk with and listen to your child

Make children feel comfortable when talking to you about any topic or problem. Give them the freedom to express themselves without the fear of being judged or blamed. The more you understand about what concerns your child, the better you can help him or her.

Get your child involved in the problem-solving process. Children are more open to making good decisions when you value their input and they are part of the discussions.

10. Encourage children to stay in school

Keeping kids in school helps keep them away from crime and gangs. Work with schools, parent-teacher associations, teachers and guidance counsellors to help children do well and enjoy the school experience.

If your child has dropped out of school, ask the school about education re-entry programs.

For employment training programs, visit:
www.gov.mb.ca/tce/ets2/index.html
or Service Canada's website at www.youth.gc.ca/index.html.

11. Don't give up

Whatever you do, DON'T GIVE UP! Even though it may seem that your child is pushing you away, or is saying they don't need you, stay connected and let them know you care about them. Children always need a trusted adult to turn to. They may seem like they're not listening, but a lot of what you say does sink in.

Need to find out what's going on with the kid. Need to find out what's happening. Show these kids the ugly parts of gangs – dead gang members, funerals, people crying, this is what happens to people who think that killing someone is OK. I think about what I did every day. You think about your family - his family every day, and there's nothing I can do. It will never go away. People think a life sentence is peanuts, but when you're sitting in my shoes it hits you. You think about it constantly.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

Warning signs a child may be involved in a gang

It's important to know what to look for if you think a child might be involved in gang activity. It is sometimes hard to distinguish typical teenage behaviour from the first signs of gang activity.

If you notice the following changes in your child, it could be a sign of gang involvement:

Changes in appearance

- looks dirty or messy
- wears gang clothing
- odd haircuts – shaves parts of head or entire head
- odd eyebrow markings
- odd pen marks, bruises or burns – on arms, hands and body
- has a tattoo

Changes in behaviour and personality

- sudden changes in mood
- angry, breaks rules
- resentful of authority
- bad attitudes towards family and/or school
- bullies or assaults others
- unexplained physical injuries – may have been beaten by a gang as a form of initiation
- in trouble with the law
- drug, alcohol or substance abuse
- uses hand signals
- uses gang slang or heavy swearing
- claims a new nickname
- lack of responsibility (ex: doesn't do chores and/or homework, forgets family occasions)
- starts blaming, lying, making excuses
- needs too much privacy

Money

- money becomes a priority
- asks for or steals money
- spends lots of money
- has a lot of unexplained money

Changes in school

- lower grades, not doing homework
- often late for school and late returning home from school
- skips school
- falls asleep in class
- gets into trouble with teachers or other students
- gets suspended or expelled
- quits school

Changes in friends and interests

- sudden change in friends
- doesn't introduce new friends
- friends seldom come to the house
- spends more time in room or away from home
- secrecy about actions and belongings
- hobbies, sports or after-school activities dropped
- stays out too late
- stays out all night, or for days at a time

Pro-gang attitudes

- pro-gang messages, posters or clothing – starts to like gangster movies, videos, music, etc.
- starts talking like a gangster
- strongly defends gangs and feels adults are hassling them
- is easily angered when asked about gang involvement
- draws graffiti symbols and names on books, folders or bedroom walls

What to expect

Once in a gang, a child's behaviour can change. To be accepted by the gang, he or she must adopt a defiant attitude toward authority figures. This defiance may be expressed by disruptive or violent behaviour at school or home.

At school, the child lets everyone know his or her new status and becomes disrespectful towards teachers and others. The new gang member may fight others to gain a reputation for being "bad." The gang member may pick a victim and constantly harass him or her.

At home, the new gang member's defiance may or may not be expressed in violent behaviour. How the new gang member acts at home will depend on existing relationships with parents and other family members. However, if the family attempts to interfere with the child's gang involvement by setting limits and increasing supervision, there may be repeated confrontations.

Not all gang members are obvious in their dress or manner. They may not display gang characteristics while in school, so gang activity may go undetected until a major event occurs.

Please note: *Some changes, such as being secretive, can simply be a part of typical child development. Other actions, such as carrying a weapon, are not typical behaviour and should raise immediate concerns.*

Prevention strategies for schools

Schools are an essential partner in preventing gang activity. They often form the centre of our communities and children spend most of their days at school. We know if we can keep children in school, they are less likely to come into contact with the law.

Schools around Manitoba have been creative in preventing gang activity. Here are some initiatives that may work in your local schools:

If I'm skipping school, there's obviously something going on. I probably wouldn't skip if my mom and dad wasn't drinking.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain, 2006.

Safe Schools Charter

Schools in Manitoba are required to have codes of conduct that specifically address many safety issues, including activities related to gangs. Emergency preparedness plans are also a must – they include specific ways for responding to intruders in the school.

The Manitoba government passed The Safe Schools Charter in 2004. Section 47.1(2) of the charter bans gang involvement within schools in Manitoba. As well, wearing gang colours in Manitoba schools is prohibited.

Specific codes of conduct

Schools in Manitoba have the authority to create specific codes of conduct that address issues particular to their localities.

- **Dress code**

  Some schools have worked with students to set a dress code that meets the needs of individuality for students and helps prevent gang activity. Examples include:

  - no hats
  - no hoods worn up
  - all shirts tucked in (can prevent weapons from being hidden under clothing)
  - no jackets worn in hallways or classrooms (also can prevent weapons from being hidden)
  - no cell phones

  Setting reasonable dress codes may lower gang intimidation and bullying of other children.

- **Hallway traffic**
  Some schools have worked with students to determine which times of the school day are the busiest and might pose a bigger threat to student safety. Or which locations in the school may be more vulnerable to bullying.

  For example, a map of the school hallway can be presented to the students, who secretly identify the most dangerous area(s) of the hallway by putting a red sticker on the map. The school can then determine how to better monitor this section of the school (ex: alter class times to change the flow of traffic, better lighting, etc.)

- **Safety cameras**
  Some schools have received support from their school divisions to put safety (surveillance) cameras on school buses, in the schools or outside the schools.

- **Threat assessment plan**
  The province requires all schools to have threat assessment plans to address situations where staff or students may be at risk. The plans cover how to recognize signs of potential threats, how to respond to violence in the school, and the processes for referrals when additional help is required. These plans are designed to prevent harm to oneself, to others and to property.

Safe Schools Manitoba

Safe Schools Manitoba is a partnership initiative of organizations committed to working together to enhance the safety of Manitoba's schools and communities. Safe Schools Manitoba aims to create a greater awareness and understanding of the problems that affect school safety. It advocates a positive, proactive approach to the promotion of safe and caring schools and communities.

Safe Schools Manitoba provides assistance, training and information to schools and community groups on research-based approaches to prevention and intervention. It also shares resources, provides samples of best practices and offers guidelines for policy development.

Safe Schools Manitoba offers workshops throughout the province on the following topics:

- Bullying: Issues and Interventions
- Bullying in the Workplace
- Creating a Safe School Climate
- Teacher/Principal Discretion Advised
- Zero Tolerance Policies and Discretion: Finding a Balance

For more information on Safe Schools Manitoba, contact:

Safe Schools Manitoba
191 Provencher Boulevard
Winnipeg, Manitoba R2H 0G4
Phone: 233-1595 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-262-8836
Website: www.safeschoolsmanitoba.ca

The link between bullying and gangs

The issue of bullying has always been a serious problem for children and youth. While not all children use bullying and not all children involved in bullying are gang members, there is a link between gangs and bullying.

Gangs use bullying when they intimidate, verbally abuse, harass and/or physically harm other children and youth, whether or not the kids belong to a gang. Many of the reasons children or youth participate in bullying are the same reasons they join a gang (ex: to experience a sense of power, to belong to something).

The Manitoba government is working together with parents and communities to prevent violence and bullying in Manitoba schools.

A recent publication – A Whole-School Approach to Safety and Belonging: Preventing Violence and Bullying – was produced by Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth, and has been sent to all Manitoba schools.

This publication is also available at:
www.edu.gov.mb.ca/ks4/docs/support/guidance/whole_school_approach.html

The purpose of this publication is to promote a positive approach to safety and belonging that works alongside planning systems already in use in Manitoba schools. It is useful for school-planning teams interested in a school-wide approach to preventing and responding to violence and bullying. The approach is flexible to allow schools to address issues unique to their particular school and student body. For more information, or to receive a copy of *A Whole-School Approach to Safety and Belonging: Preventing Violence and Bullying*, please contact:

Program and Student Services Branch
Manitoba Education, Citizenship and Youth
E140-1970 Ness Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3J 0Y9
Phone: 945-7964 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-282-8069, ext. 7964

Prevention strategies for communities

Communities can do their part to prevent children and youth from being lured into gangs by creating a focused gang-prevention strategy. The more focused a strategy, the more successful it is likely to be.

The strategy should include working with individuals and families who may be at risk for criminal involvement and those who have already been victimized. Community partners should be involved in creating a strategy.

A successful gang-prevention strategy must balance responding to crime with immediate action and long-term preventive approaches. The province supports many initiatives to improve neighbourhoods, housing, economic conditions, and education and employment options. While we work on long-term solutions to improve our communities, there are some immediate steps parents, families, schools and communities can take to prevent children from becoming involved in gangs.

What your community can do

There are many community groups dedicated to community safety. Work with these groups to find out what programs are offered in your community that benefit children and families.

Does your community have the following?

- programs to support new parents
- programs that encourage children and families to spend time together
- parenting skills programs
- early childhood programs
- after-school and weekend programs for kids (boys and girls)
- mentoring programs
- cultural programs or events
- job education and training programs
- stay-in-school programs
- drug and alcohol abuse programs
- anti-bullying programs in your school
- good communication with your local government officials
- good communication with local police
- Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP)
- Neighbourhood Watch programs
- victim support programs
- Community Youth Justice committees

The key to preventing gang activity is linking individuals and families, who may be at risk of criminal involvement, with these programs. It is often helpful to offer individuals and families free transportation to the programs, complimentary snacks and food at the site, or other supports.

If community agencies are offering programs/services listed, are they being accessed by the families, children and youth most at risk? If not, what needs to change to better meet their needs?

Examples: *Do residents need to be notified of free recreational opportunities (door-to-door flyers, outreach workers, connecting with residents on a block-by-block basis)? Are the programs offered at the right time of day (when families are free to access them)? Are the programs offered by the most appropriate agency?*

Programs for kids

Make sure to ask kids in the neighbourhood what activities they would like to do on the weekend and after school. Remember, youth are interested in participating in activities they find exciting. Offer programs that would interest girls and boys.

If I was going to take advice from an adult about how to lead a good life (no drugs), I'd want to see them living that life too.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

Organizing community action

Community groups have the knowledge and experience to work with local families and to find solutions. Schools, police and other agencies also have a strong understanding of local safety issues. There are many representatives in the community who could contribute to addressing specific gang issues. They include:

- community leaders
- community organizations
- school representatives
- child and family services
- housing representatives
- police
- probation services
- Citizens on Patrol/Neighbourhood Watch
- justice committees
- elders, spiritual advisors, faith leaders
- youth representatives

I hate being in jail and I hate being on the street.

Gang member.
Stony Mountain Institution, 2006.

When discussing gang issues, it is important to determine which level of gang activity the community wants to address. For example, your community may want to address:

- children and youth at risk of breaking the law
- gang-involved youth
- gang-related crime

Kids helping kids

Manitoba youth speaking out against gang involvement

Young people at the Manitoba Youth Centre were asked to share how things might have been different if they had known about other choices or had more support.

They said the following things may have helped them avoid gangs:

- if parents had taken classes to improve their parenting skills
- access to alternative school programs
- access to employment training programs
- opportunities to play organized sports, or participate in free activities (ex: soccer, swimming)
- availability of positive role models
- encouragement to attend alcohol and addiction programs
- transportation to school, work, recreation programs, etc.

The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act (SCNA)

Manitoba has developed a unique, effective and confidential way to approach gangs and related activities in neighbourhoods. The Public Safety Investigations Unit of Manitoba Justice enforces *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*. It works by holding property owners accountable for threatening or disturbing activities that regularly take place on their property.

The process starts when a community resident files a complaint with the Public Safety Investigations Unit. The identity of the person who files the complaint is kept confidential and is never revealed.

You can contact the Public Safety Investigations Unit to file a complaint if you see the following activities occurring on a property on a regular basis. (The act refers to activities that are ongoing, not those that happen occasionally.)

- unlawful drug use, dealing, production or cultivation
- prostitution and related activities
- unlawful sale of liquor
- unlawful use or sale of intoxicating substances – non-potable and solvent-based products
- sexual abuse or exploitation of a child or related activities
- possession or storage of an unlawful firearm, weapon or explosive

Please note: *The Public Safety Investigations Unit is not part of a police service. It is a unit of Manitoba Justice and works in partnership with local police.*

For more information, please contact:

Manitoba Justice
Public Safety Investigations Unit
1430-405 Broadway
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 3L6

Phone: 945-3475 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-954-9361
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/scna.html

Community-based, crime prevention strategies

- **Prevent break-and-enters**
  - Ensure that you secure your doors and windows with a reliable lock.
  - Never leave your doors unlocked, even if you are just in the back yard.
  - Outdoor lighting will often discourage would-be criminals.
  - If you own a legal firearm or other weapons, they should be secured in locked cabinets in your home. In the event of a break-in, this helps prevent these items from getting into the wrong hands.

Sometimes items stolen from homes are sold. The money is then used to support drug use.

- **Citizens on Patrol Program (COPP)**

The Citizens on Patrol Program is a community-based, crime prevention initiative, established in co-operation with local law enforcement agencies, to improve community safety through deterrence, education and awareness. COPP involves citizens volunteering their time to become an extra set of eyes and ears for the police, to help prevent and/or discourage crime from occurring in the community.

For more information on COPP, please contact:

Manitoba Public Insurance
The Provincial COPP Co-ordinator
Phone: 985-8849 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-866-326-7792
Fax: 204-985-7652
E-mail: info@citizensonpatrol.mb.ca
Website: www.citizensonpatrol.mb.ca

- **Neighbourhood Watch**

In Winnipeg, the Winnipeg Police Service is active in organizing and supporting local Neighbourhood Watch groups. The Neighbourhood Watch program is a proactive concept designed to reduce residential break-and-enters and other property crimes within a community. Through increased awareness and crime prevention tips, participating community members are encouraged to develop good security habits and to watch out for each other's property. A police officer patrolling your community may not recognize a stranger inside your yard or an unusual vehicle in your neighbourhood – but your neighbours would.

For more information or assistance in starting a Neighbourhood Watch on your block, please contact your local Citizens for Crime Awareness chapter or the Winnipeg Police Service Community Relations Unit at 986-6322.

Gang awareness presentations

Law enforcement agencies offer gang prevention presentations. They include:

- **RCMP Integrated Gang Intelligence Unit**

The RCMP is available to conduct presentations throughout Manitoba. For more information, or to arrange for a presentation in your community, please contact your local RCMP detachment.

- **Winnipeg Police Service**
  Community Services Division – School Resources Unit

The Winnipeg Police Service has created a series of prevention presentations in the Take Action in Schools program. Presentations range from gang prevention to drug awareness.

For more information, contact:
Winnipeg Police Community Relations Unit and School Education Section
Phone: 986-6322 (Winnipeg)
Website:
www.winnipeg.ca/police/TakeActionSchools/takeactionschools.stm

2. Intervention (strategies for parents)

Once children and youth have come into contact with the law, there are various approaches parents, families, communities and local governments can take.

Talk to your child about gangs

Start talking to children about gangs at a young age. Ask lots of questions, especially when it comes to a child's friends or free time. If one suggestion doesn't work, try another. The worst thing to do is – nothing.

You might want to begin the conversation in a comfortable setting (ex: eating a meal together, walking together, watching television, in the car).

Examples of possible questions include:

- **Where are you going?**
  Make sure you know where they will be. Ask for specifics. "I'm just out," is not an acceptable answer.

- **When will you be home?**
  Set a curfew and stick to it. Do not allow children to stay out late on the streets or in the community alone. Know where your children are after school and how they spend their time on the weekends.

- **Who are your friends?**
  Know who your children are spending time with. Let them have their friends over. Pay attention to what their friends are wearing. Be suspicious if your child doesn't want you to meet their friends, or refuses to talk about what they do together.

- **What's your favourite music group or video?**
  Find out what music your child is listening to. Read the lyrics and watch for the parent advisory label on the CD or tape. This means the lyrics contain strong and/or sexually explicit language.

- **How are things going at school?**
  Ask what the kids do at recess and at lunch? Do they have fun with the other children or is anybody bothering them?

- **What do you know about gangs? Do gangs ever bother you?**
  You may be surprised at a child's answer. If children attend a school with a strong gang presence, they may know quite a bit. If they are evasive, it may mean they have more than a passing interest in gangs. Some kids will come right out and admit being in a gang.

  Let children know they can talk to you, that you will not be mad at them for talking about gangs. Tell them you want to make sure they are safe.

- **Do you know how much you're needed in our family?**
  Children need to know they are important. Tell them you care about them! Make them feel important and wanted. If you don't accept a child, gangs are more than happy to do it for you.

What to tell a child about the realities of gangs

You can start by telling your child:

- Gangs trick children into joining.
- Gangs work hard to recruit members.
- Getting out of a gang is hard.

Gangs pressure, intimidate, and promise recruits a lot of money, friends, support and status. They prey on vulnerable young people. Once you're in, you're in.

Getting out of a gang is really tough and, at times, dangerous. A child risks injury and ongoing threats for leaving with information on gang members and their activities.

You can be hurt. Gangs are involved in crime and violent behaviour. A child can be seriously injured by the initiation process, by fighting with other gang members or while committing crimes.

You can hurt your family and others. Families can be put at risk when a child joins a gang. Family members and others can be hurt by the gang or by rival gangs. Homes can become a target.

Please note: *If a child is being intimidated by a gang, the best strategy is to call the police.*

You can wreck your future. Gangs pull children towards a life of crime and away from school, recreation, family life and jobs. A criminal record can restrict freedom, a career, public privileges, life opportunities and travel when children get older.

Warning signs that a professional is needed

Educating children about gangs and setting standards and rules may be enough to keep them from joining or staying in a gang. Children need to know what is expected from them. If they don't have you, or another trusted adult, watching out for them, they may think no one cares.

Sometimes no matter how hard you try, the lure of a gang can be too strong for a child. Gang recruiters and gang members are not easily discouraged and for some children, gang life may seem like the best or only option for them.

You may need professional help if you've talked to a child about gangs, and the child:

- promises to quit but doesn't
- is arrested because of gang activity
- continues to hang out with gang friends after being told to stop
- is involved in high-risk behaviour

Help is available from counsellors, spiritual advisors, support groups or treatment programs. Delaying action just delays solutions. If other children are involved, tell their families. Don't be surprised if some families don't believe their children could be involved in a gang.

What if I suspect a child is in a gang?

If you think a child is at risk of joining a gang, or already in a gang, get help. Contact programs and agencies in your community that help children. Learn about the law and legal issues in your neighbourhood and get involved with your community. You may be saving a child's life.

If you think a child may be involved in gang activity, you need to act. Read about gangs, talk to someone who has gang experience or see a counsellor. Be nosy, if that's what it takes to get information. A child could be in danger.

It is important to be calm and share your worries honestly. Choose a quiet time to talk with your child. Explain why you are against gangs and discuss how you would like to deal with it.

When asking if a child is involved in a gang, be prepared to hear statements like: *"Not me, it's just my friends,"* or *"Don't worry, I didn't do anything wrong,"* or perhaps *"Everyone in the neighbourhood/school is doing it,"* or *"I have to, it's the only way I'm safe,"* or *"Don't worry. I've quit."*

Listen to the child. Don't argue, but be prepared to ask questions. Ask the child if they'd like to see any changes in the way things are

done at home. If you uncover an action or activity that your child assures you won't be repeated, you might treat it the same way you would if a family rule was broken. Let the child know you will be watching carefully and that it will take time to rebuild lost trust.

If you think this is too much to handle alone, get help. A list of resources for families is included at the back of this handbook.

How do I help a child get out of a gang?

Children need help if they are:

- in a gang and they want out
- thinking of joining a gang

Help them find someone they trust and respect to talk to about their feelings, thoughts or questions. Encourage them to:

- talk to someone in their family (If children can't talk to their families, perhaps they will talk with a friend's family.)
- speak with a teacher, principal, elder or guidance counsellor
- be careful who they talk to, and not to discuss this with other gang members
- call the local police station to see if they have information on anti-gang programs

Here are examples of intervention strategies communities can consider:

- Link families to community supports. Families may feel embarrassed that their children have been in trouble with the law. They need the support of the community.
- Link youth to positive mentors. Research indicates that having one positive adult in a kid's life makes a difference.
- Link youth to employment programs.
- Talk to youth about the benefits of returning to school. Finishing school will provide more job options in the future.
- Youth and families may need help to deal with substance abuse.

- Use restorative justice practices when appropriate (ex: youth justice committees and community justice forums). Restorative justice practices involve the offender, victim and community in resolving the harm that's occurred.

Families and communities should not jump to conclusions about their children and gangs. The warning signs of gang involvement can appear similar to typical adolescent behaviour. The key is to question the behaviour if it seems way beyond the norm for children that age.

Back to school

If your child is no longer in school, meet with the school to discuss how to get him or her back into the education system. The schools are there to help you and your child figure out the best plan of action to continue their education.

Back to work

The Manitoba government has a number of programs and services to help youth find employment. The MB4Youth Division of Education, Citizenship and Youth works closely with youth, businesses, not-for-profit organizations, community groups, educational institutions, provincial departments, and other levels of government to accomplish two main goals:

- One goal is to work with prospective employers to facilitate the hiring of students and youth up to age 29 by providing internships, grants, job referrals, mentorship and bursary opportunities, and wage incentives. The division delivers over 20 employment programs.

- The other goal is to be the single source of information for all youth programs and services offered by the Manitoba government. The division would like to make it easier for youth to access over 200 provincial programs and services.

For more information, contact:
Phone: 945-3556 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-282-8069 ext. 3556
Website: www.mb4youth.ca

Strategies for children and youth

You can get out of a gang.

While it's rarely easy, there are ways to get out of a gang. Here's what you need to know.

Be willing to make changes.

Deciding to leave a gang may mean changing your life, your activities, your friends – but it could save your life! At first, you will probably find yourself spending nights alone. But soon, you'll make new friends and find other things that interest you.

Give yourself time.

Making a positive change in your life takes time. It doesn't happen overnight. It's normal to feel frustrated, bored or scared. Remember that what you're doing takes real courage. Don't give up. .

Find someone to help.

The most important thing you can do is find someone you trust to help you. It could be a friend, counsellor, parent, spiritual leader – someone you can talk to about how you're feeling, and who can help you figure out your next steps.

Make a plan.

This will be hard work, so be prepared. When making your plan, consider the following:

- Don't tell your other gang members that you are trying to leave. This could be dangerous if it gets back to the wrong people.
- Stop looking and acting like a gang member – change how you dress, stop using gang signs and talking like a gang member.

- Cover up tattoos.
- Change your phone and/or cell phone number. Don't answer the phone if you know it's a gang member.
- You may need to change your friends – this can be lonely, but in time, the right friends will come along.
- You may need to move.

Think about how you will spend your time.

What will you do after school, evenings, weekends? Think about what activities you enjoy. Do you have any hobbies? Get involved in an activity that interests you or try something you've always thought you'd like to do. For example:

- working out
- playing sports
- music
- drawing or painting
- building things

Think about what to say if your gang:

- calls you to hang out at night
- makes fun of you for changing
- threatens you if you don't come back to the gang
- expects you to do drugs or something else illegal

Have a backup plan.

- Make sure there's a friend or adult you can trust, who you can call in an emergency, or if you just want to talk.
- Don't go to the mall, stores, parties or homes where you know there will be gang members.
- Talk to your teacher about staying in school, or see your guidance counsellor about how to get back in school.
- Think about what type of job you might like to do.

There may be helpful programs in your community.
Here are some ways to find them:

- Call the friendship centres, Lighthouses program, Boys and Girls Clubs, YM/YWCA, Big Brothers/Big Sisters or local Band office. Ask about programs for youth and young adults.
- Call or visit a local elder, or stop by a church or synagogue to talk to a priest, pastor or rabbi.
- Talk to your teacher or visit your school. The school may have after-school programs or counselling to offer you.
- Talk to your local Band counsellor or police officer in your community. They are there to support you.
- If you are on probation, talk to your probation officer about helping you.

3. Suppression

Manitoba promotes and advocates for all legal and reasonable efforts to disrupt gang activity. A series of provincial strategies are in place to suppress gang activity:

- The province supports and works in partnership with law enforcement to ensure effective strategies.
- The province has a unit of specialized prosecutors (lawyers) to counter organized crime.
- Manitoba's Intensive Support and Supervision Program deals with young offenders considered to be at the highest risk to reoffend.
- The province supports the Integrated Organized Crime Task Force. This integrated effort is made up primarily of officers from the RCMP and the Winnipeg Police Service with participation from the Brandon Police Service and other municipal police agencies as needed. The task force focuses on intelligence-led enforcement to seriously suppress organized crime at the leadership level.

- Manitoba's Public Safety Investigative Unit enforces the Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act and the *Fortified Buildings Act*. These two laws address a broader range of disruptive activities engaged in by gangs.
- Manitoba's correctional facilities (jails) work to ensure that gang members are effectively managed.
- An interprovincial agreement between Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec strengthens the provinces' joint efforts to fight organized crime through better collaboration, information sharing and training.
- The Criminal Organization High Risk Probation Unit focuses on the prosecution of organized criminal activity and breaches of probation, while tracking gang activity and sharing information.

Manitoba has a number of provincial laws, which also create a hostile environment for organized crime:

- *The Courthouse Security Act*
- *The Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*
- *The Fortified Buildings Act*
- *The Civil Remedies Against Organized Crime Act*
- *The Criminal Property Forfeiture Act*
- *The Cross-Border Policing Act*

D. Drugs – A Brief Guide for Families and Communities

Kids are naturally curious about drugs. They may have heard stories about drug experiences. They may have seen others using or have friends who are taking drugs. Many kids will try drugs at least once or twice. A 2001 study by the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba found that about 40 per cent of the students surveyed in Manitoba high schools reported using drugs other than alcohol and tobacco in the past year.

Gangs profit from young people's curiosity about drugs. Drugs are a big part of gang life. Using and buying drugs supports organized crime. If children are involved in gangs, there is a good chance they are involved with drugs. Gang members are almost always required to sell drugs to make money for the gang.

Young gang members are often used to sell drugs, so older members are not caught by police. Drugs are the main source of money for gangs and a source for much of the gang violence. Many drug dealers carry firearms to protect themselves.

Teaching children about drugs

Start talking about drugs when children are young (pre-teen). Children begin learning about drugs very early – from television, movies and those around them.

Keep in mind, they frequently see drug education as an accusation, or as nagging or lecturing. Find the right moment to talk about drugs, such as when drugs are shown on a television program or movie.

Kids want guidance from adults about serious issues. Let them know you do not approve of drug use.

Signs a child is selling drugs

Determining if a child is selling drugs can be difficult, but there are some signs to watch for. For example, your child may be involved in drug dealing if he or she:

- carries a cell phone or pager that you didn't buy
- has a cell phone or pager that rings constantly
- suddenly has lots of money
- keeps sheets of paper with names and numbers, or names and symbols, on them (keeps track of who they are selling to)
- has an electronic scale
- shows signs of gang membership

If any of these signs apply to a child you know, you should be suspicious. If you find out that your child is selling drugs, get help. Drug dealing is extremely dangerous. For information on signs of drug use, visit the following websites:

- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba: www.afm.mb.ca
- Take Action in Schools: www.winnipeg.ca/police/TakeActionSchools/takeactionschools.html.stm

Drug descriptions

Learn about drugs so you can better help your kids. There are a number of drugs currently being used in Manitoba. The following three drugs are some of the more common drugs sold on the streets of Manitoba:

1. **crack**
2. **meth-amphetamine**
3. **marijuana**

Here are some things you should know about each of these drugs:

Crack

Crack is a form of cocaine. It produces immediate and very intense effects that include increased alertness and energy, a rapid

heartbeat and breathing, dilated pupils, sweating, euphoria and a decreased appetite. Large doses can cause severe agitation, paranoid thinking, erratic or violent behaviour, tremors, impaired, twitching, hallucinations, headache, pain or pressure in the chest, nausea, blurred vision, fever, muscle spasms, convulsions and death. Impurities can produce a fatal allergic reaction. Pure cocaine will kill. Chronic use results in tolerance (which means the user will need more to get high) and a very powerful psychological dependence.

Meth-amphetamine

Meth-amphetamine is a stimulant also known as speed, meth, ice, girlfriend, bitch, crank or poor man's coke. Meth is a fairly new drug gaining popularity quickly in Manitoba. It is inexpensive to make, so it earns bigger profits. Unlike cocaine which has to be imported, meth can be made anywhere. The effects of meth last anywhere from four to 12 hours. They include increased alertness and energy, a feeling of well-being, decreased appetite, rapid heartbeat and breathing, increased blood pressure, sweating, dilated pupils and dry mouth. A person may become talkative, restless, excited, feel powerful, superior, aggressive, hostile or behave in a bizarre repetitive fashion. Large doses produce flushing, pallor, very rapid or irregular heartbeat, tremors, severe paranoia, frightening hallucinations or death. Impurities injected with the drug can block or weaken small blood vessels. Chronic heavy users may develop malnutrition and amphetamine psychosis, an illness similar to paranoid schizophrenia. Like cocaine, amphetamines can produce very powerful psychological dependence leading to compulsive use.

Manitoba Crystal Meth Strategy

In November 2005, the Manitoba government launched a comprehensive strategy to tackle crystal meth that focused on restricting the supply and reducing the demand for crystal meth. For more information, visit: www.gov.mb.ca/healthyliving/meth.html

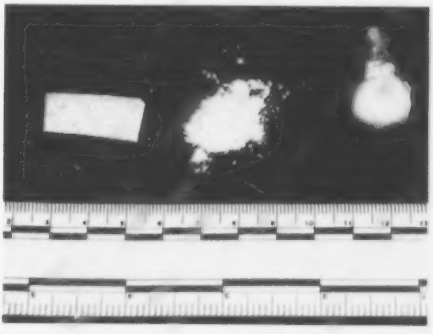
Marijuana

Marijuana is also known as cannabis, pot, grass, weed, reefer, ganja, joint, hashish and hash oil. Experts expect this drug's popularity to increase if its use is no longer a criminal offence, because it won't be seen as dangerous as other drugs. The effects of smoking are felt within a few minutes and last two to four hours. The person feels calm, relaxed, talkative and sometimes drowsy. Concentration and short-term memory are noticeably impaired, and sensory perception seems enhanced colours are brighter, sounds are more distinct and the sense of time and space is distorted. Laughing is also common. Physical effects include impaired co-ordination and balance, rapid heartbeat, red eyes, and dry mouth and throat. Usual doses impair motor skills, especially when used in combination with alcohol; marijuana use before driving is particularly dangerous. Chronic users may develop a state called "reverse tolerance." Reverse tolerance occurs when the body gets saturated with THC, the chemical in marijuana that causes a person to get high. Once this occurs, a user needs only several puffs of a joint to get high again.

Common street drugs and paraphernalia

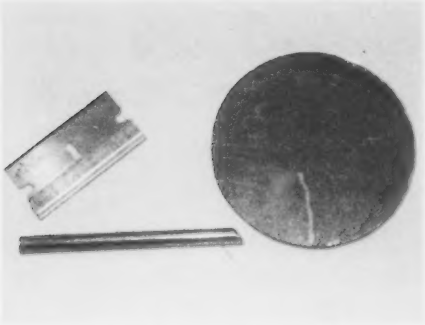
All photos courtesy of Winnipeg Police Service Identification Unit

Crack Cocaine



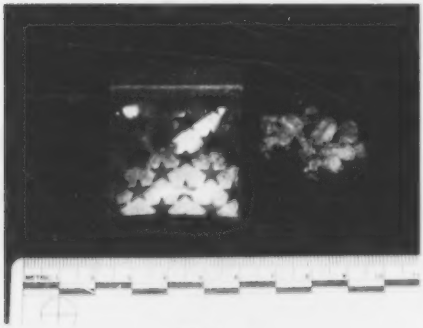
Powder Cocaine

Examples of how it is packaged and sold on the streets.

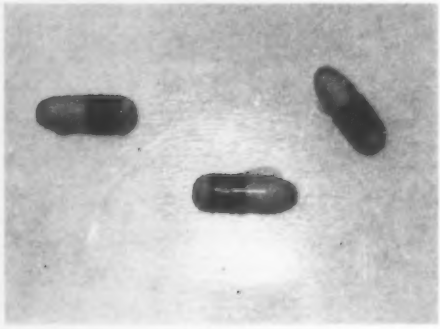


Powder Cocaine "Coke Kit"
Mirror, razor, snorting tube

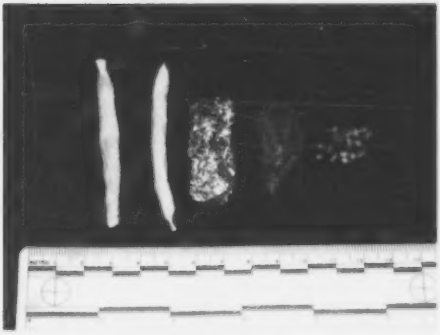
Crack Pipe
Used for smoking crack cocaine



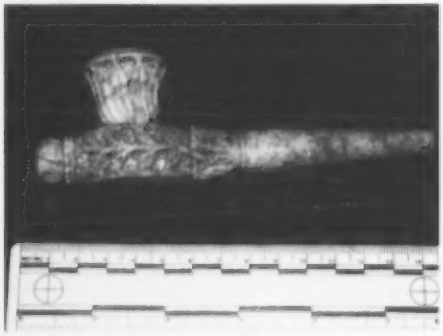
Meth



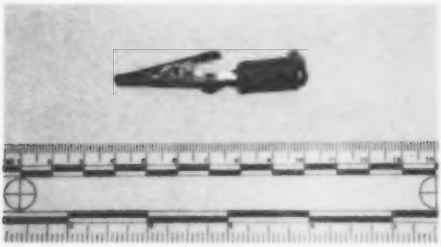
Gel Caps
Contains meth, P.C.B.



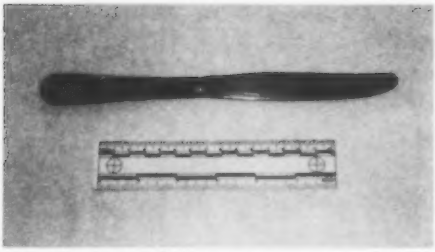
Marijuana
Joints, plant, seeds



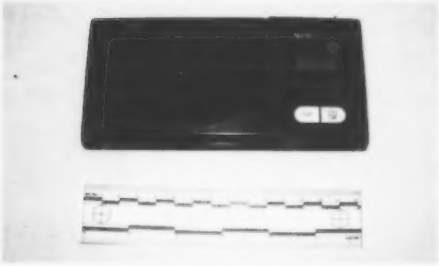
Marijuana Pipe



Roach clip to hold joints



Hot knife heated to smoke weed oil, hash oil or hashish



Portable Digital Scale

Syringe

A final word...

Keeping kids out of gangs is difficult, but necessary. It is not just a job for law enforcement. It is a job for families and communities. If we build strong, healthy families and communities and keep them that way, gangs will not survive.

Whether you're a parent, guardian, elder or teacher – the time, interest and affection you share with the children in your life to make them feel loved and important, is critical. Recognize and celebrate the children around you. You'll never know the difference you can make.

E. Who to Contact

MANITOBA JUSTICE

PROJECT GANG-PROOF RESOURCE LINE

945-4264 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-691-4264
Website: ww.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/gangproof/index.html.
The line is a resource to help keep Manitoba communities safe. The line will help youth, parents and others deal with gang-related issues. Callers will be referred to the appropriate resources.

PUBLIC SAFETY INVESTIGATION UNIT

945-3475 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-954-9361
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/scna.html
The Public Safety Investigation Unit (PSI) investigates and inspects properties under the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act and The Fortified Buildings Act*. You can call the unit if you suspect properties are used by individuals and/or gangs involved in drugs, prostitution, solvent abuse, firearms or unlawful liquor sales. All calls are confidential and your identity will never be revealed.

SUBSTANCE USE SERVICES FOR YOUTH

Provincial Central Intake – Youth Addictions Service
Toll free: 1-877-710-3999
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/health/mh/directory/youth.html
Youth affected by alcohol, and other drug abuse or gambling experience a variety of problems. Manitoba offers a continuum of services that support youth and families in the process of overcoming addictions. Information regarding safe and unsafe use of drugs and alcohol, effects on the body, etc. are available widely through a variety of media. Resources have been developed for specific ages and genders as well as specific settings (ex: educational settings, health care settings).

PARTNERS @ 510 SELKIRK AVENUE

An overview of services:

- Single Source for Information on Programs, Initiatives and Community Resources.
  Winnipeg 945-0447 or 1 800 883 0398
  510 Selkirk Avenue – The Murdo Scribe Centre
  Website: www.partnersforcareers.mb.ca
  A storefront, accessible resource centre, offers information on all the programs and services, agencies and initiatives, government programs available for all Manitobans. ex: employment, training, education and community supports. Information is also available on services that exist outside of Winnipeg.
- Guide to Winnipeg for Aboriginal Newcomers
  The Partners for Careers' Guide to Winnipeg for Aboriginal Newcomers is supplied free of charge to individuals and Aboriginal client-serving agencies. As Aboriginal people move to Winnipeg, whether for a short or a long time, this guide will assist in getting connected to the larger community. Information is included on housing, transportation, shopping, cultural organizations, etc. Call 945-0447 or 1 800 883 0398 to order free copies.
- Aboriginal Youth Mean Business!
  Website: http://www.aymb.ca/
  Winnipeg 945-0447 or 1 800 883 0398

Partners @ 510 Selkirk hosts this website as a directory of all the services that exist through Manitoba to help Aboriginal youth and adults start or grow a business. The site features an Aboriginal Entrepreneur every month and maintains a directory of existing Aboriginal businesses.

PARTNERS FOR CAREERS

Linking Ability with Opportunity. Serving First Nation, Metis and Inuit Manitobans. The primary focus is to help Aboriginal people throughout Manitoba find employment. We work to find job seeker appropriate positions through the following delivery agencies:

- all 10 rural friendship centres - call 942-6299 (Winnipeg) or visit www.mac.mb.ca/2005
- Staffing Solutions at the Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development (CAHRD) - call 989-7122 (Winnipeg) or visit www.cahrd.org

OTA-MISKA PUBLICATION: A "WHERE TO FIND IT" RESOURCE MANUAL

Phone: 984-2272 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-665-2019
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/iedm/sbcd/otamiska.html
The Ota-Miska Publication is an annual Aboriginal resource manual, listing federal and provincial government departments as well as non-governmental organizations that provide programs and services for Aboriginal people.

HEALTHY CHILD MANITOBA

Phone: 945-2266 (Winnipeg)
Toll free 1-888-848-0140
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/healthychild/index.html
The Province of Manitoba, with its community partners, has developed a continuum of programs and services for children, youth and families including:

- **Parent-Child Centred Approach** - Brings resources together through community coalitions across the province to support parenting, improve children's nutrition and literacy, and build capacity for helping families in their own communities. (for families with children of all ages).

- **FAS Strategy** - The Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) Strategy helps with the prevention, intervention, and care and support of individuals with FAS or alcohol-related birth defects.
- **Healthy Baby** - A two-part program of financial assistance for nutrition during pregnancy and community programs that offer nutritional and health education to expectant and new families.
- **Families First** - Home visiting supports to families with children, from pregnancy to school entry.
- **Healthy Schools** - Bridges the gap between health and education to improve the wellness of children and families in communities with higher than average factors of risk to good health. This initiative is in the early stages of development.
- **Triple P - Positive Parenting Program** - Promotes positive, caring relationships between parents and their children and helps parents learn effective management strategies for dealing with a variety of childhood developmental and behavioural issues.
- **Healthy Adolescent Development Strategy** - Supports healthy adolescent development, including initiatives for teen pregnancy prevention, through teen-centred prevention and intervention programs.

TURNABOUT

Phone: 945-5609 (Winnipeg)

Toll free: 1-866-276-5081

The Turnabout program is a partnership between provincial agencies, community groups and local police services. Turnabout assists children under 12 who have come into conflict with the law.

CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES:

Services are provided to communities, families and children. Services include counseling, education, emergency assistance, practical support, treatment, and temporary care, including foster care or residential care, while issues are being resolved; or appropriate permanent care, including adoption, when reunification is no longer possible.

- **First Nations of Southern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority**
  100 – 696 Portage Avenue
  Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0M6
  Phone: 783-9190 (Winnipeg)
  Toll-free: 1-800-665-5762

- **First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority**
  302 – 338 Broadway Avenue
  Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0T1
  Phone: 922-1842 (Winnipeg)
  Toll free: 1-866-512-1842
  Fax: (204) 927-7509

- **General Child and Family Services Authority**
  301 – 180 King Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 3G8
  Phone: 984-9360 (Winnipeg)
  Toll free: 1-866-803-2814
  Fax: (204) 984-9366

- **Metis Child and Family Services Authority**
  1st Floor – 150 Henry Avenue
  Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 0J7
  Phone: 949-0220 (Winnipeg)
  Fax: (204) 984-9487

LIGHTHOUSES

Phone: 945-1549 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-282-8069, ext. 1549 or 0493
Website: www.gov.mb.ca/justice/lighthouses/index.html
This is a community-based crime prevention program designed to develop partnerships among youth, police, justice personnel and the community to promote opportunities for youth to get involved in pro-social, recreational and crime prevention activities.

MANITOBA LIGHTHOUSE SITES:

Brandon
City of Brandon
Youth to Youth Lighthouse
Contact: 204-729-2234

Cormorant
Cormorant Lake Lighthouse
Contact: 204-357-2225

Dauphin
Dauphin Friendship Centre
Youth Lighthouse
Contact: 204-638-5707

Flin Flon
Flin Flon Friendship Centre
Flin Flon Lighthouse
Contact: 204-687-7287

Grand Rapids
Grand Rapids School
Grand Rapids Lighthouse
Contact: 204-639-2451

La Barriere
La Barriere Crossings
Lighthouse
Contact: 204-275-5048

Lac du Bonnet
Lac du Bonnet Youth Recreation
Centre Inc.
Y.U.T.E.S. (Youth United to Excel
and Succeed) Lighthouse
Contact: 204-345-2792

Little Grand Rapids
Got to do Something Lighthouse
Contact: 204-397-2199

Opaskwayak Cree Nation
Opaskwayak Lighthouse Program
Contact: 204-627-7112

Pauingassi First Nation
Recreation and Youth Lighthouse
Contact: 204-654-0110

Portage
Portage Friendship Centre Inc.
Youth Leadership Development
Initiative Lighthouse
Contact: 204-856-2474

Youth for Christ/ Portage Inc.
Sports Jam Lighthouse
Contact: 204-239-6763

Pukatawagan
Mathias Colomb First Nation
Health Authority
Kiss-Kih-Noh-Tah-Hin
(Show Me The Way) Lighthouse
Contact: 204-553-2392

South Indian Lake
Youth of South Indian Lake
Lighthouse
Contact: 204-374-2271

Thompson
Thompson Boys and Girls Club
Lighthouse Late Night
Contact: 204-778-1946

Waywayseecappo
Waywayseecappo First Nation
Reclaiming our Youth at Risk
Lighthouse
Contact: 204-589-3719

WINNIPEG LIGHTHOUSE SITES:

Broadway Neighbourhood Centre
Broadway Lighthouse
Contact: 772-9253

Knox United Church
Central Park
Central Park Lighthouse
Contact: 942-4579

East St. James Lighthouse
Contact: 888-3489

Elmwood Community Resource
Centre and Area Association
Elmwood Lighthouse
Contact: 982-1725

George McDowell
Evening McDowell Activity
Program Lighthouse (eMAP)
Contact: 253-1492

St. James Assiniboia School
Division
The Hut Lighthouse
Contact: 837-5843

Indian and Metis
Friendship Centre
Friendship Centre Lighthouse
Contact: 586-8441
and 582-1296

Isaac Brock Community Centre
Isaac Brock Rocks Lighthouse
Contact: 775-3869

John W. Gunn Middle
School Lighthouse
River East-Transcona
School Division
Contact: 958-6500

Kids Time Lighthouse
Winnipeg School Division
King Edward Community School
Contact: 586-8381

KYAC Lighthouse
Seven Oaks School Division
Contact: 586-9716

Lord Roberts Community Centre
Stay in the Light Lighthouse
(at Lord Roberts School)
Contact: 453-6639

Macdonald Youth Services
Youth Positively Involved in the
Community (YPIC) Lighthouse
Contact: 949-3791

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Iata Centre
Aboriginal Youth Cultural
Development Lighthouse
Contact: 925-0359

M.Y.A.C. Lighthouse
Seven Oaks School Division
Contact: 291-2935

Ndinawemaagan ag Endaawaad
Ndinawe Lighthouse
Contact: 589-5545

NEEDS Centre for War Affected
Communities
War Affected Children & Youth
Lighthouse
Contact: 940-1261

North Fort Garry Youth Action
Lighthouse
Contact: 452-3040

Nor-West Co-op Community Health
Centre
Nor'West on Alexander-DOA
Leadership Program
Contact: 940-2106 or 940-2145

Pembina Trails School Division
Westdale Lighthouse
Contact: 488-1757 ext: 1218
Polson After School Lighthouse
Contact: 975-0634

Ralph Brown Community Centre
St. John's Youth in Action
Lighthouse
Contact: 586-3149

Rossbrook House
Weekend Alternatives Lighthouse
Contact: 949-4090

St. George School Rainbow Lighthouse
Contact: 253-2646

Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc.
Building Belonging Youth Program
Lighthouse
Contact: 986-5467

Teen Stop Jeunesse
The Arts Club Lighthouse
Contact: 254-1618

Valley Gardens Lighthouse
River East Transcona School Division
Contact: 223-1318

Victory School Lighthouse
Seven Oaks School Division
Contact: 586-9716

Wellington Lighthouse
Contact: 774-8085

Westdale Lighthouse
Contact: 488-1757 ext. 318

Winakwa Community Centre
Winakwa Youth Drop-In
Centre Lighthouse
Contact: 237-4365

MANITOBA SUICIDE PREVENTION

WINNIPEG 1-877-435-7170

The Suicide Prevention Line is available to Manitobans experiencing suicidal thoughts, those concerned that a friend or family member may be at risk of suicide, and those grieving the loss of someone from suicide.

LAW ENFORCEMENT:

BRANDON POLICE SERVICE

Phone: (204) 729-2345
They offer public education presentations to the public and schools upon request.

RCMP MANITOBA Integrated Gang Intelligence Unit

Phone: 983-2778 (Winnipeg)

The RCMP Integrated Gang Intelligence Unit. This unit serves areas of Manitoba outside Winnipeg with offices located in Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICES

Community Services

Phone: 986-6322 (Winnipeg)

They provide an all-inclusive crime prevention education program that will allow all citizens of Winnipeg to TAKE ACTION against crime in their community.

Organized Crime Unit

Phone: 986-3916 (Winnipeg)

This Winnipeg Police Service enforcement unit, deals with all forms of gang suppression against street gangs, outlaw motorcycle gangs and other groups or criminal organizations.

Outlaw Biker Hot Line Canada

Toll free: 1-877-660-4321

This 24-hour hotline is designed to receive information on outlaw motorcycle gang activity throughout Canada. The line does not subscribe to any call display service and all calls are confidential.

GRAFFITI

BRANDON CRIME STOPPERS

Phone: (204) 727-TIPS (8477)

If you have any information on who is responsible for a crime you are asked to call Brandon Crime Stoppers. Crime Stoppers does not subscribe to Call Display. Your call is not recorded and your identity will remain anonymous. Crime Stoppers will pay up to $2,000 cash for information that leads to the solution of a crime.

GRAFFITI HOTLINE

Phone: 986-1234 (Winnipeg)

Customer Service staff respond to a variety of citizen concerns in addition to concerns about graffiti. They will assist you by taking graffiti-related calls and notifying the appropriate department, organization or individual to have the graffiti problem addressed. They will also assist individuals or groups interested in organizing graffiti paint-outs. They will provide paint and supplies to assist groups, individuals and victims willing to remove graffiti in their community.

OFF THE WALL

Cell phone: 782-0436 (Winnipeg) Probation

A graffiti-removal program where youth in trouble with the law work in the community to remove the graffiti.

TAKE PRIDE WINNIPEG

Phone: 956-7590 (Winnipeg)

In cooperation with the City of Winnipeg, Take Pride Winnipeg focuses on education programs, organized volunteer paint-outs,.and manages citywide mural program.

WINNIPEG CRIME STOPPERS

Phone: 786-TIPS (8477) (Winnipeg)

If you have information about individual(s) involved in graffiti vandalism, you can call Crime Stoppers, which offers up to a $2,000 cash award for information leading to an arrest. The program allows callers to remain anonymous.

WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE

Phone: 986-6222 (Winnipeg)

If you see graffiti in progress, call the police at 986-6222. The police also work actively with the community to prevent graffiti. This is achieved through enforcement, prevention, education and awareness programs.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

ABORIGINAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS CENTRE OF WINNIPEG

Phone: 925-3700 (Winnipeg)
They provide a range of primary health services that combine a blend of traditional and contemporary practices. They provide regular access to Aboriginal Elders.

ADDICTIONS FOUNDATION OF MANITOBA

Phone: 944-6235 (Youth Services, Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-866-638-2568
Toll free: 1-866-767-3838 (Brandon)
Toll free: 1-866-291-7774 (Thompson)
Website: www.afm.mb.ca
They provide assessments and a range of addiction programs.

ANDREWS STREET FAMILY CENTRE

Phone: 589-1721 (Winnipeg)
They provide a resource centre for area families, offering programs such as a community kitchen, food buying club, support group for mothers and educational workshops.

ART CITY

Phone: 775-9856 (Winnipeg)
Art City is a community art centre offering free high quality arts programming to people of all ages.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH FOUNDATION

Phone: 269-3430 (St. Norbert)
Website: www.bhf.ca
The Foundation provides long term residential programming for men, women, teens and family units experiencing a variety of addiction problems. The program is designed to offer graduated opportunities

for equipping a person with the vocational, intellectual and communicative skills necessary for successful reintegration into society. Dependents of these persons are also accommodated both in residence and in program.

BIG BROTHERS AND BIG SISTERS

Phone: 727-1787 (Brandon)
Phone: 325-9707 (Morden/Winkler)
Phone: 857-4397 (Portage La Prairie)
Phone: 989-9200 (Winnipeg)
Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Manitoba matches children with caring adults for ongoing friendship, support and guidance.

BROADWAY NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

Phone:772-9253 (Winnipeg)
Offers a variety of recreational and cultural programs at 185 Young Street just south of Broadway.

CHILD FIND MANITOBA – GANAWENIMIG SAFETY AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Phone: 945-5735 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-800-532-9135
Website: www.childfind.mb.ca
It provides culturally sensitive programs on child and personal safety, expand and expose the Aboriginal community to the services of Child Find, and assist in locating missing/runaway Aboriginal children and youth.

CONTACT COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Phone: 287-8827 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-866-266-4636
This community information centre links people with the required agency or service that can assist them. They maintain a provincial data-base on health, welfare, social services, educational, cultural and recreational resources throughout Manitoba.

EAGLE URBAN TRANSITION CENTRE

501-286 Smith Street Winnipeg MB R3C 1K4
Phone: 954-3050 (Winnipeg)
Toll free: 1-866-345-1883
Website: www.eagleutc.com
The Eagle Urban Transition Centre is a province wide First Nations/ Aboriginal service delivery agency that advances the principles of healthy living by providing leadership and resources to First Nations/ Aboriginal people who have relocated or are residents of Winnipeg.

THE FAMILY CENTRE

Phone: 947-1401 (Winnipeg)
The centre provides individual, couple and family counselling. Offers parenting education courses and workshops on many family-related issues. Provides family support services for families in crisis.

GRAFFITI ART PROGRAMMING

Phone: 667-9960 (Winnipeg)
This is a not-for-profit community youth art centre located in the core area of Winnipeg, using art as a tool for community, social, economic and individual growth.

INDIAN FAMILY CENTRE

Phone: 586-8393 (Winnipeg)
The Indian Family Centre is dedicated to the development and maintenance of the Aboriginal community in a spiritual and social way. They have a multipurpose room and kitchen facilities as well as pastoral services, sharing circles, worship/healing circles and seasonal ceremonies with Anishnaabe and Christian traditions.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE OF WINNIPEG

Phone: 943-9158 (Winnipeg)
They serve as an information centre for immigrants and refugees, and offers counselling and referrals. Sponsors community outreach programs including a youth drop-in location and a community kitchen.

KA NI KANICHIHK INC

Phone: 953-5820 (Winnipeg)

Website: www.kanikanichihk.ca

Ka Ni Kanichihk provides a range of culturally based education, training and employment, leadership and community development, and healing and wellness programs and services, which are rooted in the restoration and reclamation of cultures.

KIDS HELP PHONE

Toll free: 1-800-668-6868

This is a 24-hour, toll free, bilingual, telephone counselling service for troubled children and youth. Provides emotional support, counselling, information and referral.

MA MAWI WI CHI ITATA CENTRE

Phone: 925-0300 (Winnipeg)

Toll free: 1-800-962-6294

The Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre provides supports and resources for Aboriginal children and families within the city of Winnipeg. Some programs offered are parent support groups, family violence prevention, homemaking services, child development and nutrition, and the W.I.N. program.

Locations in Winnipeg:

- 94 McGregor St.
  Phone: 925-0300 (Winnipeg)
- 318 Anderson Ave.
  Phone: 925-0349 (Winnipeg)
- 743 Ellice Ave.
  Phone: 925-0348 (Winnipeg)

Adolescent Parent Support Project

- 330 Blake Street 'H' Block
  Phone: 925-0320 (Winnipeg)

Circle of Care

- 610 Spence St.
  Phone: 925-4477 (Winnipeg)

MANITOBA ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

Phone: 942-6299 (Winnipeg)

Website: www.mac.mb.ca

They protect and promote their member centres by empowering them to deliver quality programs and services through unity, accountability, commitment and preservation of Aboriginal integrity. Call to inquire about the nearest centre in your community.

Brandon Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-727-1407

Dauphin Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-638-5707

Flin Flon Indian & Metis Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-687-3900

Lynn Lake Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-356-2407

Ma-Mow We-Tak Friendship Centre (Thompson)
Phone: 204-677-0950

The Pas Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-627-7500

Riverton & District Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-378-2800

Selkirk Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-482-7525

Swan River Friendship Centre
Phone: 204-734-9301

MÉTIS CULTURAL RESOURCE AND ACTIVITY CENTRE

Phone: 956-7767 (Winnipeg)

Website: www.metisresourcecentre.mb.ca

Provides cultural, educational and social programming for Métis peoples and others interested in Métis culture and history.

NATIVE ADDICTIONS COUNCIL OF MANITOBA

Phone: 586-8395 (Winnipeg)

The council provides Aboriginal people with counselling, information and referral on alcohol and drug abuse, gambling and other addictions.

NATIVE WOMEN'S TRANSITION CENTRE

Phone: 989-8240 (Winnipeg)

This is a long-term safe house for Native women and their children who have been victimized and who desire to make positive lifestyle changes. The Centre provides culturally appropriate programs and resources in a residential setting.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

Phone: 786-7051 (Winnipeg)

Website: www.newdirections.mb.ca

This agency, concerned with the developmental potential of children, youth and families, offers family therapy, crisis intervention, residential care and educational programs.

NORTH END COMMUNITY RENEWAL CORPORATION

Phone: 927-2333 (Winnipeg)

The North End Community Renewal Corporation promotes the economic, social and cultural renewal of the North End of Winnipeg.

NORTH END WOMEN'S CENTRE INC.

Phone: 589-7347 (Winnipeg)
Website: www.newcinc.org
The North End Women's Centre provides free, supportive information and referral services, group and individual counselling, drop-in with a community access phone, educational workshops, reference material, community development projects, community economic development programs, community computer access, two transitional housing units, assistance with basic need provision, volunteer opportunities and support to other community agencies.

P.A.T.H. CENTRE

Phone: 927-2300 (Winnipeg)
Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope (P.A.T.H.) assists North End residents to access community resources and move towards financial freedom and employment. Programs like *Circle of Friends* discussion groups, computer and Internet access, and the *True Colors* career assessment tool, make this one-stop-shop a great neighbourhood asset.

PLESSIS FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Phone: 777-1215 (Winnipeg)
Plessis Family Resource Centre provides parenting information for teens, a toddler's group, community kitchens, and crafts co-operative and community dinners. The family resource centres can also offer some opportunities for work experience.

RESOURCE ASSISTANCE FOR YOUTH (RAY)

Phone: 783-5617 (Winnipeg)
Website: www.rayinc.ca
Resource Assistance for Youth provides troubled young people with intervention, treatment, recovery and prevention through outreach, resources and referrals.

SPENCE NEIGHBOURHOOD ASSOCIATION

Phone: 783-5000 (Winnipeg)

Spence Neighbourhood Association provides a voice for community members in order to change the systems and institutions that could prevent crime in the community.

SPORT MANITOBA WINNIPEG REGION

Phone: 925-5907 (Winnipeg)

Sport Manitoba facilitates greater participation and achievement of excellence by Manitobans throughout the entire continuum of sport from grassroots and recreational levels to the highest level of athletic performance.

ST. ANNE'S FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Phone: 255-8387 (Winnipeg)

St. Anne's Family Resource Centre offers 98 households access to programs, public-access computers, employment skills training and preparation for job interviews, conflict resolution and crisis counselling.

STREET CONNECTIONS

Phone: 940-3687 (Winnipeg)

Street Connections offers harm-reduction programs for street kids, including drug users, street youth and youth exploited through prostitution.

TEEN TOUCH

Phone: 783-1116 (Winnipeg)

Toll free: 1-800-563-8336

Teen Touch operates a confidential, non-judgmental, 24-hour, distress line for teenagers and their families. It is staffed by trained volunteers who are there to listen, offer options and make referrals.

WELCOME PLACE

Phone: 977-1000 (Winnipeg)

Welcome Place promotes and supports the protection and resettlement of refugees, and offers a range of services that welcomes and assists refugee newcomers in settling and integrating into Canadian Society.

WII CHIIWAAKANAK LEARNING CENTRE

Phone: 789-1431 (Winnipeg)

The University of Winnipeg's Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre offers free programs, space, and resources to community members and groups. Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre bridges the digital divide and provides Aboriginal students and inner-city community members with the technology to explore their past and navigate their future.

WINNIPEG BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB

Phone: 982-4940 (Winnipeg)

Website: www.wbgc.mb.ca

The mission of the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club is to offer children and youth, of different social and cultural backgrounds a safe and challenging environment as well as skills that will help them to realize their potential. Boys and Girls clubs operate throughout Winnipeg. Phone for a program near you.

WOLSELEY FAMILY PLACE

Phone: 788-8052 (Winnipeg)

Wolseley Family Place is a community-based family resource centre that provides holistic health and social services to families.

WOODYDELL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

Phone: 254-8581 (Winnipeg)

Woodydell Family Resource Centre are open to the entire St. Vital community. Woodydell offers baby/toddler groups, sewing groups, a baking/community kitchen and women's crafts and activities.

YOUTH RESOURCE CENTRE

Phone: 477-1804 (Winnipeg)

The centre's services include information, referral, informal counselling, support services and guidance for youth aged 13 to 20. It also provides short-term shelter, food and clothing for youth aged 12 to 17. The resource centre is open 24 hours seven days a week.

F. References

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H. Appendix

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For more information or to make comments
or suggestions contact us at:

Manitoba Justice
Community Justice Branch
945-4264 (Winnipeg)
1-800-691-4264
crimeprevention@gov.mb.ca
www.gov.mb.ca/justice/safe/gangproof/index.html

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